

**AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE TO ELECTION OF SPECIES REQUIREMENT**

**Remarks**

**Amendment to the Claims**

Claims 1, 3, 12, 13, 14 and 15 have been amended. New claims 16-20 have been added. Support for the amendments to claims 1, 12, and 15 can be found in the specification at least at page 9, line 30 until page 10, line 1. Support for the amendment to claim 3 can be found in the specification at least at page 7, line 5. Claim 13 has been amended to replace “lubricating composition” with “graft copolymer”, referenced in claim 12 from which it depends. Claim 14 has been amended to be a proper dependent claim. Support for new claims 16, 17 and 19 can be found in the specification at least at page 10, lines 7-8. Support for new claims 18 and 20 can be found in the specification at least at page 7, line 5 and in claim 3 as originally filed.

**Response to Election of Species Requirement**

In the Official Communication mailed October 31, 2006, the Examiner required an election of species for the polyionic backbone, the non-interactive side chains, and the surface. In response, Applicants elect nonpeptide polyamines for the polyionic backbone, poly(ethylene glycol) (PEG) for the non-interactive side chains, and oxidized silicon for the surface. Claims 1-3, 5, 6, 8-10, 12, and 15-20 read on the elected species.

Applicants make this species election with the understanding that upon a finding that the elected species are patentable, the generic claims will be searched and examined.

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Favorable consideration of claims 1-20, as amended, is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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